

Senna alata

Candle bush

Senna alata (L.) Roxb.
Syn. *Cassia alata*

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Large shrub, to 16 ft tall, branched. Leaves pinnate, 7–14 pairs of smooth leaflets, apex rounded, to 2.5 inches long, larger toward tip. Branches hairy, green. Flowers yellow, arranged closely on an upright spike vaguely resembling a candle. Pods upright, thick, leathery, straight, narrow and 4-angled, winged, containing up to 60 tan to brown flattened seeds. Bark has been used for tanning and as medicinal for skin diseases, poisonous bites, and fevers. *Senna* from the Arabic name *sana'*; *alata*, winged^(5, 59,70).

Distribution: From South America, a common ornamental. Naturalized on Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and O'ahu. Introduced prior to 1871⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms dense stands in pastures.



Management: Susceptible to triclopyr, picloram, and 2,4-D⁽⁶¹⁾. Mechanical controls are usually ineffective due to suckering.